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USAID/Zambia ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY WILDLIFE PROTECTION

Zambia's impressive biodiversity faces increasing threats from human activities, mainly poaching, bush fires, and encroachment. These threats are significantly reducing wildlife populations, thereby undermining the tourism and economic potential of the area. USAID/Zambia supports the implementation of the Community Wildlife Protection (CWP) Activity in Mumbwa and Namwala Game Management Areas (GMAs) through our local partner, Game Rangers International. The area that CWP operates is part of the Greater Kafue Landscape and is home to a rich biodiversity of wildlife including the elephant, sable antelope, buffalo, the endemic Kafue Lechwe, and 13 species of carnivores including lion, leopard, hyena, cheetah, and wild dog.

- **Life of Project:** February 2019 – February 2021
- **Geographic Focus:** Kafue Landscape, Mumbwa and Namwala Game Management Areas
- **Partner:** Game Rangers International
- **Chief of Party:** Handsen Mseteka
- **Total USAID Funding:** \$953,016
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The CWP activity is a community-based approach aimed at increasing community action to decrease poaching and other illegal activities. USAID assistance provides technical and operational support including training and equipment, patrol rations, performance incentives, and uniforms to community scouts supporting local livelihoods and improving wildlife management.

A secure wildlife population improves conditions for communities beyond direct employment by attracting and benefiting from wildlife-based enterprises such as sustainable tourism, hunting, and game ranching conservation. A community led approach ensures sustainability of efforts and helps the communities to become effective stewards of wildlife for resilient national development and posterity. Ultimately, the activity contributes to the broader effort to conserve the Greater Kafue Landscape as a habitat of global significance. The Community Wildlife Protection activity:

- Supports community action for resource protection in the two GMAs to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of law enforcement operations and curb wildlife crime
- Creates an Intensive Patrol Zone of approximately 1,700 km² in the western section of the Mumbwa GMA and the north-western section of the Namwala GMA for increased anti-poaching operations
- Recruits and trains community scouts to support the Mweengwa Anti-Poaching Unit
- Improves fire management in Mumbwa and Namwala GMAs

Expected Results

The activity will increase law enforcement capacity in the communities surrounding Kafue National Park ultimately improving their ability to protect and manage wildlife resources. Reduced poaching and damage due to wildfires and encroachment will eventually lead to increased wildlife populations for key species in the target area. Improved management of the park will increase conservation and tourism, contributing to livelihoods for the surrounding communities.